

Claims

We claim:

1. A mounting bracket for securing a plank to a joist, said mounting bracket comprising:
 - 5 a separating flange;
 - a joist-fastening portion connected to said separating flange, said joist-fastening portion having a hole therein for receiving a fastener for fastening said mounting bracket to the joist;
 - a support flange connected to said joist-fastening portion; and
 - 10 a plank-fastening portion connected to said support flange.
2. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said plank-fastening portion has a hole therein for receiving a fastener for fastening said mounting bracket to the plank.
- 15 3. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said joist-fastening portion extends from said separating flange at an angle of approximately 90°.
4. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said support flange has a hole therein corresponding to said hole in said joist-fastening portion.
- 20 5. The mounting bracket of claim 4 wherein said hole in said support flange is aligned with said hole in said joist-fastening portion.
6. The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein said separating flange and said
25 plank-fastening portion are substantially co-planar.

7. The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein said support flange extends from said joist-fastening portion at an angle of approximately 35 degrees.
- 5 8. A mounting bracket assembly for mounting a plank to a joist, comprising:
a separating flange for placement between the plank and the joist; a joist-securing flange adjacent said separating flange, wherein said joist-securing flange is capable of being secured to the joist; a support flange adjacent said joist-securing flange; and, a plank-securing flange supported by said support flange, wherein said
10 plank-securing flange is capable of being secured to the plank
9. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a fastener for securing said joist-securing flange to said joist.
- 15 10. The assembly of claim 9 wherein said securing means is selected from the group consisting of a screw, a nail or a bolt.
11. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a fastener for securing said plank-securing flange to said plank.
- 20 12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said securing means is selected from the group consisting of a screw, a nail or a bolt.
13. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a spacer portion between said
25 plank-securing flange and said support flange.

14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said spacer portion is curved.
15. A method of securing a plank to a joist comprising the steps of:
- 5 providing a mounting bracket having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, said second portion being positioned between said first and third portions;
- placing said first portion of said mounting bracket between a top surface of the joist and a plank;
- 10 securing said second portion of said mounting bracket to a side surface of the joist; and,
- securing said third portion of said mounting bracket to the plank.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein said second portion of said mounting bracket
- 15 is secured to said side surface of said joist with a fastener.
17. The method of claim 15 wherein said third portion of said mounting bracket is secured to said plank with a fastener.